

## Butler County Chapter Newsletter

Website:

[www.pasrbutler.org](http://www.pasrbutler.org)

Home Chapter of PASR State  
President Mary K Davis



These state officers were duly elected and installed at the October House of Delegates. They will take office on January 1, 2024 and serve a two-year term. *Left to right:*

Robert McNamera, Vice President  
John Werner, President-elect  
Diane Motter, Treasurer  
Mary K Davis, President  
David A. Schell, Parliamentarian  
William Neugebauer, Immediate Past-President

Fran Geisel attended the October 15-17 HOD as our Butler delegate. Polly Shaw attended as Region 8 Director.

## December 2023

### President's Message



A common challenge facing just about every organization in 2023 is declining membership. During covid, many turned to online social interaction but it's not as effective as in-person gatherings.

The number one way to encourage new members is by personal invitation. Yes, I can hear you say that you don't know people anymore from your building; don't know who is retiring. I don't either, having retired in 2011. But are they your only possible contacts? Let's expand.

**Step One** is to be ready so that when you do interact with a possible member, you know what to say. More on that in a minute.

**Step Two** is to be aware of others in groups in which you do participate. Look around at Church, bowling, card

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### **Butler Chapter Officers**

President 724-584-0371 Polly Shaw  
[pollyshaw@zoominternet.net](mailto:pollyshaw@zoominternet.net) OR  
[pollyshaw3@gmail.com](mailto:pollyshaw3@gmail.com)  
President-elect ..... **OPEN**  
Recording Secretary ..... Fran Geisel  
Corresponding Sec'y ..... **OPEN**  
Immediate Past Pres ..... Peg Harding  
.....harding.margaret@gmail.com  
724-502-4065  
Region 8 Director.....Polly Shaw  
Treasurer .....James Huemme  
khuemme@zoominternet.net  
Asst. Treasurer Joanne Van Deusen  
Website www.pasrbutler.org  
State website www.pasr.org  
State President-elect Mary K Davis

### **Committee Chairs**

Legislative and L/PEC ..... Peg Harding  
Membership..... **OPEN**  
Retirement Planning ..... **OPEN**  
RECREO Joanne Nolsheim  
Social Services/Memorial Honor Fund  
Ruth Scott  
By-Laws ..... Joanne Meredith  
Educational Support Diana Bowman  
Community Service Peg Harding  
Member Benefits & Services **OPEN**  
Reservations Donna Vogel  
Public Relations Polly Shaw

### **PASR School Entity Area Chairs**

Butler Area Sharon Kline  
BC3 Ruth Scott  
Karns City Enid Wilson  
Knoch Virginia Shirey, Doris Herceg  
Mars Minette Thompson  
Moniteau Carol Ball  
Seneca Valley Joanne Meredith  
Slippery Rock Ellen McIntyre

**"to serve others in need  
and help one another"**  
**PASR Mission Statement**

(continued from page 1)

Club, neighborhood groups, exercise or movement groups, Service clubs such as Rotary, bowling, at the hair salon, quilting group, perhaps a retired group from your school building. Anyone who contributed to PSERS when working is a potential PASR member. Spouses/partners who take you to meetings but do not have PSERS retirement can be Associate members but may not hold office.

When chatting with someone, you may find a way to insert a comment about PASR. That's when you can use your "elevator speech".

An elevator speech is a clear, brief message or "commercial" prepared about our organization. It's typically about 30-45 seconds long, the time it takes to ride from the top to ground floor in a building elevator. The idea is to be prepared to share PASR with anyone at anytime, even in an elevator. Gather your ideas and write them down. Cut out the extra details and jargon. Practice to make it natural and get comfortable with what you want to say so you can breeze through it when the time comes.

Absolutely not longer than 45 seconds, approximately 100 words in 12 sentences, it would answer a key question: What is PASR and what does it do? You could note your key points in a note on your smart phone or back of your pocket calendar so it is handy if you want a memory prompt.

Here's a simple example:

I belong to the Butler Chapter of PASR, PA Association of School Retirees. It is open to all who retired from PA public schools. Our mission is to serve others in need and to help each other enjoy retirement. We support groups that help our communities. Scholarships are given to students and grants are awarded to teachers and paraprofessionals. We meet at noon, four times a year, in March, September and December at Christ Community Methodist Church, and in May in the Masonic Shelter at Alameda Park. I'd like to invite you to check out our website at pasrbutler.org, and come to our next meeting.

**Cards of Cheer:**

Carole A. Fibick  
Bonifay Nursing and  
Rehab Center  
306 West Brock  
Ave.  
Bonifay, FL 32425



**2024 Butler Chapter Calendar**

EXEC BD	GEN. MEMBER.
Feb 7	Mar 20, Seneca V
April 10	May 29, Slippery R at <b>Alameda Park</b>
August 7	Sept. 25 Butler
October 23	Dec 11, BC3

Other meetings are at Fellowship Hall at Christ Community Methodist Church on Duffy Road in Butler.



Please note these dates right now on your personal calendar. Try to avoid scheduling other appointments on these dates.

Butler County Chapter PASR  
General Membership  
Luncheon Meeting  
September 27, 2023  
Christ Community Methodist Church

Polly welcomed us. Peg Harding from Mars offered grace. Lunch was served.

Polly called the meeting to order at 1:00. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President's Report- The COLA is getting closer to completion. Focus is on maybes. Progress is encouraging. Although our Chapter is stable, other chapters are experiencing problems. Clarion is run by committee with only an elected treasurer. At only 10 members, they are considering merging with another chapter. Mercer is headed by co-presidents with no person stepping up to become president. Mary K is expected to be installed as State President at the HOD on October 17. Polly will be presenting a program on the Keystone Shortway, I-80, as one of the breakout afternoon options. Carol Ball will need help setting up for the December Luncheon Meeting. Polly asks that any ideas for fundraising or for the good of the chapter be sent to her.

Minutes, as printed in *Journey*, are accepted. Treasurer's Report-



Jim talked about the fact that local Life Members have not paid local dues for years. One Life member gave a donation to him to make up for years of not paying dues. Other Life members are encouraged to make similar donations. Peg Harding assumed

responsibility of leading the meeting when Polly had to leave for another program.

SS/MHF- Ruth compiled a flyer to remind us of our relationship with Center Avenue School, reminding us to bring gently-used winter coats and gift cards to the December meeting. Community Service- Remember bring items for Bingo prizes. -Robin's Home Thrift Shop, call ahead to see if there is room for your donation. -AMVETS call for home pick up. Invite a retiree to a meeting to see PASR at work. Ruth Scott won the raffle. \$52 was donated for the extra food. Program by Gary Rauschenberger, AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program coordinator for Butler County. Call 211 to make an appointment for free help between Martin Luther King Day and April 14. Public sites are Cranberry Library, Mars Library, Tanglewood, and Trinity Lutheran Church.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:55.  
Membership-

Respectfully Submitted,  
Frances Geisel  
Recording Secretary



***DON'T FORGET!!!***

Bring a coat or two for the Center Avenue students, grade 1 - 12. Gently used is ok, too.

Also bring money for the **\$10 gift cards from Walmart** (or bring the gift card) to help supplement when they need items, such as shoes or personal hygiene items.

For those of you who live out-of-town you can also participate with the gift cards for the students. You can send me a check for \$10 for each card and I will purchase them for you. The more we can acquire the more we are helping those underprivileged. These students have special learning problems and the school is providing so many opportunities for them to improve and perhaps rejoin the rest of the school population.

My address is: Ruth Scott, 221 E. Muntz Ave., Butler PA 16001



Thank you all so very much and Happy Holidays.  
SSMHF Chair: Ruth Scott

**PASR Butler Chapter Community Service report Winter 2023**

Thank you so much for submitting your volunteer hours for 2022-2023. Even though I only received less than 10 responses, I'm sure many of you went and helped others throughout our communities. In calculating the Volunteer Award, I called PASR headquarters to check on the requirements for those who are eligible to receive this prestigious award. Those in our chapter who are local and state members definitely qualify. I wasn't sure about those persons who were only local members. If we helped our neighbors, all of us should qualify!



PASR headquarters said that any member local, state, or both, qualify. **Therefore, we will be awarding the 2023**

**Volunteer of the Year Award at our December luncheon.** I'm sorry that in the past, we only recognized state

members for this award. Thank you, local members for submitting your surveys and this year one of you will receive that award! **We are still collecting items for the Life Butler Bingo prizes, plastic bags for the Homeless Mats, and Robin's Home items.** The Life Butler program is run by Lutheran Senior Life Foundation and every time we donate PASR prize items to their Bingo, we receive and wonderful thank you for our generosity. The senior citizens appreciate what you give them! Thanks! With Thanksgiving and Christmas coming, shortly many of you will still be busy volunteering for our local care agencies! Enjoy time with your families, too!

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Report on House of Delegates

October 15-17, 2023

STRONGER TOGETHER IT STARTS WITH US.

**Sunday-** The first of three plenary sessions began with the usual Invocation, Presentation of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, and welcome with introductions. The Keynote Speaker was Mary Bach, Independent Consumer Advocate. Her humorous but very informative presentation was about the confusing PA sales tax laws and the escalating practice of price manipulation by manufacturers. Always read labels on the packaging, check to see that you are getting what you want and check the amount contained within the package. Check your receipt to make sure you are not taxed for nontaxable merchandise. The session continued with administrative procedures to help the HOD meeting run smoothly.

Meet and Greet: Wine and Light Snacks allowed members to renew and make new friends.

**Monday-** The early part of the morning was filled with various group meetings. The second plenary session addressed the reports of various committees. After lunch, various workshops were presented. Polly presented her "The Story of the Keystone Shortway: I-80". Mary Beck presented a program called "Do You Really Know Who is Calling You or Sending You those Emails?". The program was again entertaining but informative about fraud and scam issues. The annual banquet in the evening allowed for socialization and the presentation of awards. The entertainment, V.F.W. Post 8543 Variety Big Band played songs from the 40's to the 80's. Great fun!

**Tuesday-** The early morning held region caucuses. This allowed delegates to exchange ideas about concerns in their region. Brainstorming was rampant. After the Retiring of the Colors, during the final plenary session, the Memoriam for those who have passed on from all over the state was held. Polly represented Region 8 in the ceremony. Further business included the adoption of the 2023-2024 budget and the proposed By-Laws Amendments. The final business was the election and installation of the new state officers. Our own Mary K Davis is now the State President of PASR. Congrats Mary K!

TREASURER'S REPORT  
July 1-September 30, 2023

RECEIPTS:

Luncheon	\$	490.00
Local Dues		240.00
State Dues		180.00
Donations		107.00
Raffle		44.00
		1,061.00

EXPENSES:

State Dues	\$	180.00
Volunteer Pin		10.00
SSMHF Donation		50.00
Minuteman Press		132.16
Office Expense		96.19
Hall Rent		125.00
Lunch & Decorations		422.00
		1,015.35

Beginning Balance	\$	2,166.31
Receipts		+1,061.00

3,227.31

Expenses		-1,015.35
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Checkbook Balance		2,211.96
Savings		+7,914.46

Total Funds Available      \$ 10,126.42

BUTLER COUNTY CHAPTER

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DUES: \_\_\_\_\_ Local - \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ State - \$60.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Local Life - \$150.00 \_\_\_\_\_ State Life - \$700.00

(State Life can be paid in two years at \$350.00 per year)

Please make check payable to Butler County PASR and mail to: Jim Huemme  
119 Shanor Heights Butler, PA 16001

As Region 8 Director, Polly Shaw has been issued two packets of **PASR FUND RAISER** tickets to sell. **The donation is \$20 per ticket.** Each ticket has a three-digit number and has 29 chances to win since 2024 is a leap year. All numbers are played straight as drawn. The daily winning number is determined by the 7:00 P.M. PA State Daily Number drawing. All cash winnings will be determined by the amount of prize money indicated on each date shown on the ticket. Prize amounts vary between \$300 - \$500 during the month. All information blanks on the stub must be filled out and returned to the seller at the time of purchase. The stub will be held by PASR. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to support costs of the SSMH fund. Winners will receive their checks in the mail. Polly will have the tickets at both the September and November meetings. She has twenty tickets to sell and would really like to sell all by December – or before!!



At the December meeting we will honor those who have been recognized by the Butler County Bureau of Elections for never missing voting in a General Election for 50 years! A photo will be taken. Those who were presented with the special document are invited to bring it to the meeting to show and for the photograph!

Ruth Scott, SSMHF chair, will conduct a memorial moment for those Butler Chapter members who passed during the year. Always remembered!

**DECEMBER PROGRAM**

Our December program will be presented by Steve Cicero on the History of Show Tunes. Come for an upbeat program of favorites and the stories behind show tunes.



This is the tentative schedule of **PASR Winter Zoom** opportunities. One may be added in February. All are free but you must register to receive the Zoom login information at [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) or call the office at (717) 697-7077, Monday – Friday, 8:30-4:30.

January 10, 2024	10:00 am	Winter Zoom Tutorial
January 18, 2024	10:00 am	When Enough is Enough: Setting Personal Boundaries as a Caregiver
January 25, 2024	10:00 am	Power of Attorney and Guardianship
February 01, 2024	10:00 am	Opioids: What You Need to Know
February 15, 2024	2:00 pm	Top 10 Scams Against Seniors & Identity Theft
February 20, 2024	1:00 pm	Basic of Dementia & Alzheimer's Disease Senior
February 28, 2024	10:00 am	Bringing Your Loved One Home from the Hospital or Rehab Center
March 6, 2024	1:00 pm	Medicare vs. Medicaid

## **12:00 Noon, Wednesday, December 6, 2023**

Catered by Monroe Hotel      Host: Moniteau

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall of Christ Community Methodist Church on Duffy Road, Butler, PA. At the road entrance, bear right and up the rise to the parking lot and rear entrance with glass doors.

Ham balls	Alternative:
Scalloped potatoes	Chef Salad
carrots	Italian dessert
Cole slaw	
Dessert (caterer’s choice)	dessert
Usual beverages	usual beverages

## **Reservation form due November 22, 2023**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations: ham at \$14 \_\_\_\_\_ Chef salad at \$14 \_\_\_\_\_

First time retirees and nifty nineties are free!      Total due: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Butler County PASR. Mail to:  
Donna Vogel, 148 Spithaler School Road, Evans City, PA 16033